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# U.S. Still 'Cordial' to Haiti Dictator Despite Insults, Jailing of Americans

(One in a series)

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The U.S. maintains "cordial relations" with the Haitian dictatorship of Francois Duvalier, although:

HAITI IS recognized as both an illegal and immoral government, openly anti-U.S., and the most oppressive regime in the western hemisphere.

TWO OF THE last four U.S. ambassadors have been kicked out of the country.

THE CURRENT ambassador, Benson L. Timmons III, was kept waiting five weeks for an audience with Duvalier, and then treated to an "unpleasant" lecture from the dictator on how a U.S. ambassador should behave.

U.S. CITIZENS have been jailed without cause.

U.S. BUSINESSMEN have been harassed, and government organizations have attempted to extort money from them.

HAITI HAS openly accepted planes smuggled from the U.S. in defiance of law to combat guerrilla freedom fighters, and attempted to have arms smuggled for the same purpose.

A HAITIAN OFFICIAL last year in a public speech called the U.S. a "democracy of sluts" and was immediately congratulated by Duvalier.

DUVALIER HAS expelled one U.S. embassy counselor, one U.S. military attache, one U.S. Agency for International Development chief, one U.S. cultural attache, two U.S. Naval mission chiefs, two U.S. Air Force mission chiefs.

DUVALIER TOLERATES the spread of communism both to frighten the U.S. into supporting him and to attempt to pave the way for a Communist takeover if he is overthrown, as a measure of vengeance against the U.S.

## Anti-Duvalier Campaign Fizzles

If the cordiality seems a bit strained or uncomfortable, perhaps it was because in May, 1963, the U.S. appeared involved in a psychological campaign to bring down Duvalier. It fizzled. The U.S. denies it, but most who followed that crisis closely believe the involvement.

In 1962, U.S. aid programs to Haiti — which had amounted to more than 100 million dollars since 1945 — began to shut off one by one. By August, 1963, nearly all funds had stopped on previously committed projects.

However, though U.S. aid officially stopped, some still continues in this manner:

A 2.36 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN from the Inter-American Development Bank, with U.S. blessing, to improve water systems in Haiti, plus \$190,000 for technical assistance.

SOME 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS of U.S. money being contributed through a United Nations program to combat malaria in Haiti.

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## Policy Defended As Necessary

The U.S. explains its "cordial relations" with Haiti as a necessity to protect U.S. interests and U.S. citizens in the area. A State Department spokesman said that after the crisis last year, Haiti indicated it wished for more cordial relations, and that it would see that U.S. citizens were protected.

However, there have been continuing reasons to doubt this. Two of them occurred recently.

In August, Roland Wingfield, a U.S. citizen who had been appointed faculty member at the University of Puer-

to Rico, stopped in Haiti on the way to Puerto Rico. He was working on a doctoral dissertation entitled, "Haiti: A Case Study of Underdevelopment."

At the Port Au Prince airport, when customs officials examined Wingfield's luggage, they found some of his material, including a map and a list of names of Haitian exiles.

Wingfield immediately was jailed and remained in prison for 18 days, in spite of all explanations and efforts by the U.S. Wingfield finally was released following Hurricane Cleo, when it appeared expedient because of relief possibilities.

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## Vacation Cruise Is Interrupted

Another incident occurred just a month ago. Three U.S. citizens with a two-man Latin crew were taking their 50-foot ketch, Fairwinds, on a vacation cruise around the Caribbean. They put into the southern coast port of Jacmel, were arrested as smugglers, and held for eight days.

Their release finally was obtained in an apparent swap. The U.S. had issued a complaint against a Haitian, Dr. Carlo Mevs, in Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) after customs officials picked him up as \$100,000 in arms was being loaded aboard planes, apparently destined for Haiti.

The complaint against Mevs was dropped at the request of the U.S. State Department, and the same day the Fairwinds group was released in Haiti. The State Department said there was no foundation for the smuggling charges placed against them.

Unhappily for anti-Duvalier forces, while Mevs was released another Haitian was not. He was Father Jean Baptiste Georges, coordinator of the Haitian Armed Forces for Revolution (FARH) an exiled Haitian Catholic priest, who was charged in Miami with trying to smuggle arms out of the U.S.

The FARH was the organization behind the two guerrilla landings on Haiti's southern peninsula this summer.